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Moral Statistics of the Parishes of St. James, St. George, and St. Anne Soho, in the City of Westminster. Supplementary to the Third Report of the Education Committee of the Statistical Society of London. By the Rev. EDGEIL WYATT EDGEILL, Fellow, and Member of the Education Committee, of the Statistical Society of London.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, on Monday, 19th of November, 1838.]

HAVING had occasion, as a Member of the Education Committee of the Statistical Society, to turn my attention to the condition of the children of the poor in the three parishes of St. James, St. George, and St. Anne Soho—a Report upon the schools of which has just been laid before the Society—I have been led to consider, and to collect such information as I could obtain respecting the state of the parents of those children, and the general religious and moral condition of the poor population of the district.

Such information collected by an individual, must necessarily be very imperfect. A complete investigation into so extensive a subject, would require means and exertions beyond those which any individual could bestow, and therefore belongs rather to a body like the Statistical Society. It is, indeed, a matter for congratulation, that the Council of this Society has determined forthwith to commence the enquiry into some parts of London—perhaps into these very parishes. If such should be the determination of the Committee entrusted with the task, I hope that the following information will tend somewhat to abridge their labours; at all events, it will serve to throw additional light upon the moral statistics of the district, one branch of which forms the subject of the Report which has just been read.

As the following statements apply exactly to the same part of Westminster which has been described in the preceding Report on Schools, it will not be necessary to repeat what has been said concerning its area, boundaries, population, &c., further than that the parish of St. Anne Soho, contains a poor population, consisting of workmen, employed by masters in a number of different trades, too various to come under any classification (as may be seen by the registers of the children's parents in the British and Foreign schools in that parish.)* The parish of St. James, on the contrary, contains a population in one respect resembling that of a manufacturing town. The tailors and shoemakers have there their houses of call, their societies and clubs; and form a large, and in their own class of life an influential, body. Either there are few of them in St. George's parish, or they send their children to a better class of schools, since comparatively few tailors' children attend St. George's Charity schools or Dame schools. The poor population of this last parish, at least of that portion of it lying between Regent-street and Park-lane, consists in a very large degree of grooms, ostlers, and others connected with stables (as will be seen by the number of children of these people attending the In-Ward schools.† The poor population of the Out-Ward of St. George's parish, by which is meant the portion between Grosvenor-place and the River, consists of carpenters, bricklayers' labourers and others, who have become located there on account of the buildings which have now for a long time been carried on in those parts.

* See Education Report, Table, No. XXIII.

† Ibid.

I.—Of Religion, Places of Worship, &c.

The state of the population, as far as external observances of religion are concerned, will be illustrated in some degree by the following tables.

Table shewing the Number of Churches and other Places of Worship in the three Parishes of St. George, St. James, and St. Anne Soho; together with the Number of Services, and the Number of Persons they will respectively contain.

Religious Persuasion.	Name of Church.	Locality.	Services on Sundays.		Services on Weekdays.		Space in Church.	Members of the Church.
			D.	E.	D.	E.		
Church of England	St. George's Church .	Hanover-square . . .	2	1	6	.	1500	..
	St. James's* "	Piccadilly	2	1	11	.	1700	..
	St. Ann's "	Soho	2	1	2	.	1450	..
	St. Mark's Dist. Ch..	North Audley-street .	2	.	.	.	1450	..
	St. Peter's "	Belgrave-square . . .	2	.	.	.	1800	..
	Hanover "	Regent-street . . .	2	1	.	.	1500	..
	Grosvenor "	South Audley-street .	2	.	.	.	950	..
	Trinity Chapel . . .	Knightsbridge . . .	2	.	.	.	500	..
	Belgrave "	Halkin-street . . .	1	1	.	.	1000	..
	Eaton "	Near Eaton-square .	1	1	.	1	800	..
	St. George's "	Albemarle-street . .	1	1	.	.	1000	..
	Lock "	Grosvenor-place . . .	1	1	.	.	1000	..
	Charlotte-st. "	Pimlico	2	.	.	1	1000	..
	Curzon "	Curzon-st.	2	.	.	.	1200	..
	St. Mary's "	Park-street	2	.	.	.	1400	..
	Trinity "	Conduit-street . . .	2	1	.	1	800	..
	Berkeley "	John-street	2	.	.	.	1000	..
	Arch. Tenison's Chapel	Regent-street	1	1	.	.	950	..
Scotch Church .	St. Philip's "	Waterloo-place . . .	2	.	.	.	1500	..
	York "	York-street	2	.	.	.	600	..
	Berwick-st. [building]	. . . . .	.	.	.	.	1545	..
							24,645	
	Scotch Church . . .	Swallow-street . . .	1	1	.	1	600	300
	French Protestant.	Edward-street . . .	2	.	.	.	200	..
	Le Quarré	Dean-street	1	.	.	.	150	..
	Wesleyan	Peter-street	2	1	.	2	400	150
	A Chapel	Ranelagh-road . . .	1	1	.	1	150	..
	Bible Christian . .	St. George's-place . .	2	1	.	4	40	..
	Independent . . .	Robert-street	3	1	.	.	770	400
	A Chapel	Crown-street, Soho .	4	1	.	1	900	500
	Craven Chapel . . .	Marshall-street. . .	3	.	2†	.	2300	860
	A Chapel	Shepherd's Market .	2	1	.	2	500	200
	A Chapel	Little Chapel-st., Soho	3	1	.	2	900	250
	Baptist	Grafton-street . . .	3	1	.	2	500	..
	Carmel Chapel . . .	Westbourne-street .	4	1	.	2	400	140
	Salem "	Mead's-court	4	1	.	2	600	450
	Soho Chapel	Oxford-street	3	1	.	2	500	250
Roman Catholic	St. Patrick's Chapel .	Soho	2	.	6	.	850	..
	Warwick "	Warwick-street . . .	2	1	6	.	700	..
Jewish	Synagogue	St. Alban's-place . .	2†	.	6	6	470	..
							10,930	

* Services are also held at the Workhouse of St. James's parish, and at the National School-rooms of the same parish.

† One of these services, termed the "Young Men's Prayer-meeting," is a very interesting one. It is usually attended by from 60 to 80 young men under 30 years of age, of the class of tradesmen. There is another in Crown-street.

‡ In the case of the Synagogue, this column applies to the Jewish Sabbath.

The first and second columns of the foregoing Table shew the denominations of Christians and the names of the respective churches.

The third shews the locality.

The fourth and fifth, with their divisions and subdivisions, shew the number of services on Sundays and week-days, dividing these into such as are held in the morning, and such as are held, during the greater part of the year at least, after dark. By "Services" is to be understood the opening of the doors for religious worship, without making any distinction as to the particular nature of them. Prayer-meetings are included; and in the Catholic chapels the masses which take place at consecutive hours are considered as one service, inasmuch as the doors are not closed between each, and a portion of the congregation remains from one to the other.

The sixth column shews the number of persons the respective churches will contain, or as it is usually called, the number of "sittings."

The last shews the number of members attached to each dissenting church.

With respect to the ministers who attend to the duties of these several churches and chapels, so many columns would be required to describe them correctly, that all mention of them has been omitted in the table. It may here, however, be stated :—

1. That the parish and district churches have 15 clergymen, to whom parochial charge is, in the strictest sense of the word, entrusted, and who, being constantly in the district, have no duties out of it. Besides these there are 24 clergymen, who are, in different ways more or less connected with, or concerned in, the Church which is within these limits: though most of them have no parochial charge, and some are not always resident.

2. Eight Protestant dissenting chapels have one minister attached to each, without other charge than the care of his own congregation; five more are supplied by occasional ministers.

3. One French Protestant chapel has two clergymen; the other has one.

4. One Roman Catholic chapel has three priests in constant attendance upon it; the other has four.

The number of sittings in the Established Church (amounting to 24,645) is under one-fourth; and the number of sittings in other places of worship (amounting to 10,930) is about one-tenth of the whole resident population of the district.

At Sunday morning services, all these are occupied, in the case of the Established Church (during greater part of the year at least). And as such congregations consist of the gentry and their dependants, this circumstance of their thus filling the churches proves that one duty at least is well attended to by this portion of the community.

It will appear from the tables, that what other sects want in space, they make up in the frequency of their services: indeed some chapels have religious worship going on almost without intermission, from 7 of the Sunday morning till 9 at night. The week-day morning services, which are found in the columns only against the parochial churches and Roman Catholic chapels, are by no means so well attended in the former

as in the latter, where 100 persons on an average are to be seen at their devotions* every morning, during or between the masses. As to the week-day evening services, which are found in the column opposite to the Proprietary and Dissenting chapels, they are generally attended by 150 persons at the least, generally by more.

II.—Of Prayer Meetings, and Temperance Societies' Meetings.

In one point of view these may be of less importance than the services in places of public worship before-mentioned; but in another they are more interesting, inasmuch as they shew what the lower orders are disposed to do for themselves. These two kinds of meeting, although not exactly similar, and, indeed, in the opinion of some persons, founded on opposite principles, may, nevertheless, be classed together in the following table: for all the Temperance Societies' meetings begin with prayer; and constant allusion to religious motives was made in the speeches of those who addressed the meetings at which the writer of this article was present.

<i>Prayer Meetings.</i>		
Places of Meetings.†	Number in the Week.	Remarks.
Brown-street, Grosvenor-square . . .	1	. .
Avery-row, Bond-street	1	. .
School-room, Shepherd's-market . . .	1	. .
New-street, Golden-square	1	. .
School-room, Ship-yard	1	. .
School-room, Gillingham-street . . .	2	. .
Total	7	
<i>Temperance Societies' Meetings.‡</i>		
Westbourne-street	2	. .
School-rooms, Robert-street	1	. .
„ „ Oxford Buildings	1	In each alternate week.
„ „ Ship-yard	1	Lately commenced.
„ „ Farm-street	1	. .
Bible Christians' Chapel, St. George's-pl.	1	. .
Total	7	

The Prayer Meetings are held in private houses of that class in

* The Roman Catholics have as much the advantage in their demeanour as in their attendance at prayer. The members of the Church of England sit during prayer; the Dissenters generally stand; the Roman Catholics kneel, or use the posture to which they are invited by the words of their liturgic hymn:—"Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui."

† In Hind-street, just out of St. George's parish, two meetings in the week are held at 6 o'clock in the morning, which are said to be well attended.

‡ Close to St. George's parish, in Chelsea parish, is held a Roman Catholic Temperance meeting. The reason assigned for their not joining the Protestants in Temperance meetings being "the danger of conversion."

which the Dame and Common Day schools are usually found. The street-door is left open, and a lighted candle is placed upon the stairs to invite passers-by to enter: and it is said that this simple contrivance often has the desired effect. Be this as it may, they are generally attended by from 10 to 20 persons; of whom the larger portion were, in the instances witnessed, young and middle-aged men. The frequent change of locality, and the indifference with which the subject is treated by those who do not take an immediate interest in it, render it difficult to ascertain precisely the number in existence, which very likely exceeds the number given in the table.*

The Temperance Societies' meetings are held in buildings constructed for the purpose, and sometimes in small dissenting chapels, but more often in school-rooms. The attendance is always large, consisting of bricklayers' labourers, and people who sell things in the streets; not however without a mixture of respectable persons in a higher rank of life. The meeting is opened by a chairman sent from the Central Society, and the subsequent speakers are sometimes persons of the lowest class, who, however, speak by no means badly in their way. At the conclusion of the meetings a number of persons, perhaps on a rough average 5 per cent. of the whole number present, enrol their names on the Society's books kept there for that purpose.

III.—*Habits of Prayer amongst Children.*

A better insight into the religious feelings of the poor than can be obtained from either of the above enquiries, would result from an investigation into the number of children who are brought up by their parents with the habit of saying their prayers.

The following table rests partly on the authority of a schoolmaster who has kindly taken an interest in the subject, and partly on the personal investigation of the writer at several different schools. Class I. contains the number of children, who, when requested to repeat the prayers which they said every night on retiring to rest, repeated fluently, and in a manner which shewed that they were habituated to it, one prayer or more, of a kind which it is reasonable to suppose must have been learnt from their parents at home. Some included in this class, repeated the prayer so general in country villages, "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John," with various alterations and additions, others some little hymn, or some prayer including the names of members of their family. Class II. contains the number of children who repeated prayers in a manner which shewed that they were habituated to say them; but prayers taken from the church service or used in the school which they attended, and therefore in a great measure shewing that the practice had originated with the child and not with the parents. Class III. contains the number of children who answered that they said their prayers; but, with respect to whom, it was pretty evident, from their manner and hesitation, that they did not. Class IV. gives the number of those who answered decidedly in the negative, or rather did not apprehend the meaning of the question.

* None which are held in places of worship are here mentioned, being included under the head of Services, in the previous table.

	No.	Per-Centage Proportion.
Class 1 . .	21	15·22
„ 2 . .	60	43·48
„ 3 . .	36	26·08
„ 4 . .	21	15·22
Total . .	138	100·

IV.—Benefit and Friendly Societies.

The following is the list of these institutions given in the Parliamentary Return of 1837, which are for the purpose of providing against sickness and misfortune, and very generally also for providing the means for the burial expenses of the members and their families. The list shews also the date of their establishment, and the places at which they are held. They are in number 40 :—

List of Friendly Societies in the Parishes of St. George, St. James, and St. Anne Soho, in the Year 1837, distinguishing those for Females from those for Men; and, among the latter, those for particular Classes from those which are general.

Names.	Places where Established.	Date of Enrolment.
FRIENDLY SOCIETIES FOR FEMALES.		
Sisters of Humanity . .	The Craven Arms, Marshal-st., Carnaby-market.	18 October, 1831.
United Sisters . . .	The Craven Arms, Marshal-st., Carnaby-market.	15 October, 1833.
FRIENDLY SOCIETIES FOR PARTICULAR CLASSES OF MEN.		
Western Benefit Society of Saddlers, Harness- Makers, &c.	The Vernop's Head Tavern, No. 32, North Audley-street.	1 October, 1829.
Upholsters' Friendly Be- nefit Society.	The King's Arms, Poland-street, Oxford-street.	3 January, 1831.
Operative Masons . .	The George, Great Chapel-st., Soho.	4 July, 1831.
The Tailors' Benevolent Institution or Benefit Society.	The White Horse, West-row, Carnaby-market.	18 October, 1831.
Wind Musical Instrument Makers' Burial Society.	The Cock, Grafton-street, Soho	2 April, 1832.
Friendly Society of Gen- tlemen's Servants.	The Old Chesterfield Arms, Shepherd's-market.	19 April, 1832.
The Occidental Benefit Society of Painters.	The Barley Mow, Park-street .	16 October, 1832.
The Friendly Carpenters and Joiners.	The Running Horse, Duke-st., Grosvenor-square.	6 April, 1835.
The Hope Benefit Society of Painters & Glaziers.	Coach and Horses, Great Marl- borough-street.	4 April, 1836.
GENERAL FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.		
The Good Samaritans . .	The Britannia, Berwick-street, Oxford-street.	28 January, 1830.
United Friendly Society .	Golden Lion, Wardour-st., Soho	13 April, 1830.
Social Friends . . .	The Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square.	26 October, 1830.
Union Society . . .	Oliver's Mount, Mount-row, Berkeley-square.	Ditto.

Names.	Places where Established.	Date of Enrolment.
GENERAL FRIENDLY SOCIETIES—(<i>continued</i>).		
Oxford Good Intent . . .	The Crown, Crown-ct., Princes-street, Soho.	3 January, 1831.
United Britons . . .	Oliver's Mount, Mount-row, Davis'-street, Berkeley-sq.	20 January, 1831.
The Safety	Mills's Coffee-House, Gerrard-street, Soho.	4 April, 1831.
Sons of Briton . . .	The Green Man, Berwick-st.	Ditto.
Western Union . . .	The Cock, Grafton-st., Soho .	Ditto.
Sons of Humanity . .	The Prince of Wales's Feathers, Grosvenor-place, Pimlico.	Ditto.
Friendly Benefit Society	The George, Grafton -street, Westminster.	27 June, 1831.
Associated Britons . .	Queen's Head, Queen's Head-court, St. James's.	28 July, 1831.
Free-Born Britons . .	Albemarle Arms, South-street	18 October, 1831.
Loyal Rodneys . . .	The Albion, Duke-street, Grosvenor-square.	2 January, 1832.
St. James's Union . .	The Grapes, Up. St. Martin's-la.	Ditto.
Ancient Union Society .	The Phoenix, Stacey-st., Soho .	19 January, 1832.
The Sovereign	The Three Doves, Berwick-st., Soho.	2 April, 1832.
The Abercrombie Society	The Barley Mow, Park-street, Grosvenor-square.	Ditto.
Friendly Brethren . .	The Albion, Duke-street, Grosvenor square.	Ditto.
Amicable Society . .	The George, Wardour-st., Soho	Ditto.
The Protector . . .	The White Horse, Rupert-street	9 May, 1832.
Ancient Britons . . .	The Grosvenor Arms, Belgrave-place.	Ditto.
True Britons	The Old Chesterfield Arms, Shepherd's-market, May-fair.	10 July, 1832.
Oxford Union	The Sun and Thirteen Cantons, Silver-street, Golden-square.	20 October, 1832.
The Hope	The Craven Arms, Marshal-st., Golden-square.	25 October, 1832.
Hearts of Oak	The Running Footman, Charles-street, Berkeley-square.	Ditto.
The Chesterfield Union .	The Old Chesterfield Arms, Shepherd's-market, May-fair.	23 October, 1834.
United Friends	The Harp Tavern, Jermyn-st. .	April, 1835.
The Benevolent Brothers	The Three Compasses, Silver-street, Golden-square.	14 January, 1836.

V.—*Savings' Banks.*

There are no Savings' Banks in this district excepting such as are opened by Clergymen for the use of their parishioners, in which small deposits are received, and returned at the end of the year with an addition either in money or articles of clothing. These are, however, strictly speaking, charitable institutions, and as such will not at present be further described.*

VI.—*Reading and Literature.*

That the two following tables throw a light on the style of reading which prevails among the poorer classes of the people, will be readily

* The Charitable Institutions of the Metropolis will probably form the subject of a future article. In St. James's parochial Savings' Fund there are 990 depositors of above £1 each on the average.

admitted by any one who considers how entirely the reading of the men is confined to newspapers, and how little opportunity females and young people in these classes have of obtaining books, except through the medium of the cheapest circulating libraries. It is true that domestic servants generally have, or might have, the use of the libraries belonging to their masters and mistresses;* but, whether from supposing them to contain none but "good" books, or from having too much other employment, it is certain they very seldom take advantage of this privilege. There are also parochial and lending libraries, in each of the three parishes, attached to the parochial or dissenting schools; still it is probable that the number of persons who avail themselves of these is a very small portion of the whole population. The great mass of reading is from the newspapers and small circulating libraries, and the numbers and qualities of these last will be seen at once by inspection of the following lists:—

The Number of Books found in 10 small Circulating Libraries in the Parishes of St. George, St. James, and St. Anne.

	Number.	Per centage proportion.
Novels by Walter Scott, and Novels in imitation of him; Galt, &c.	166	7.57
Novels by Theodore Hook, Lytton Bulwer, &c.	41	1.87
Novels by Captain Marryat, Cooper, Washington Irving, &c.	115	5.24
Voyages, Travels, History and Biography	136	6.21
Novels by Miss Edgeworth, and Moral and Religious Novels	49	2.27
Works of a good character, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, &c.	27	1.23
Romances, Castle of Otranto, &c.	76	3.46
Fashionable Novels, well known	439	20.
Novels of the lowest character, being chiefly imitations of Fashionable Novels, containing no good, although probably nothing decidedly bad	1003	46.
Miscellaneous Old Books, Newgate Calendar, &c.	86	3.92
Lord Byron's Works, Smollett's do., Fielding's do., Gil Blas, &c.	39	1.78
Books decidedly bad	10	.45
Total	2192	100.

The above table shews the proportions of the different characters of books found in 10 libraries which have been thoroughly analyzed and counted. The catalogues of 15 more libraries have been looked over by the writer, and by publishers who have kindly lent their assistance, and have been found to contain, upon the whole, a class of books in a trifling degree better. In the other libraries visited, permission was not obtained to take a copy of the catalogues, or no catalogue was kept; yet even in these last some knowledge of the books was obtained by inspecting them on the shelves. There are in all 38 small libraries in the district.

In one instance only, and this is worthy of remark as reflecting great credit on the parties who keep and use these small circulating libraries, were any books of an immoral character found; and in the case of this exception, the books were kept on a separate shelf and not intended for general circulation, but, as the person who kept the shop stated, "for the use of the waiters of a neighbouring hotel, who were sent out for them by the gentry attending the coffee-room."

* The Editor is acquainted with one gentleman, a worthy baronet, who takes in a second copy of the Penny and Saturday Magazines solely for the use of his servants.—[Ed.]

Newspapers and other Publications found in the Coffee, Public, and Eating houses in the Parishes of St. George, St. James, and St. Anne Soho.*

PUBLICATIONS.	Coffee-Houses.	Public-Houses.	Eating-Houses.	PUBLICATIONS.	Coffee-Houses.	Public-Houses.	Eating-Houses.
<i>Reviews.</i>				Liverpool Mercury . . .	1	.	.
Quarterly	3	.	.	Northern Liberator . . .	1	.	.
Edinburgh	3	.	.	Stamford Mercury . . .	1	.	.
British and Foreign . .	3	.	.	Welshman	1	.	.
London and Westminster	3	.	.	Scotsman	4	.	.
<i>Newspapers.</i>				<i>French Papers.</i>			
Athenæum	4	.	.	Almanac de Commerce .	1	.	.
Age	3	3	.	Almanac de Gotha . . .	1	.	.
Bell's Life in London .	28	53	4	Bon Sens	1	.	.
Bell's Messenger . . .	7	4	1	Constitutionnel	4	.	.
Court Journal	3	.	.	Courier	2	.	.
Courier	9	5	1	Journal des Débats . . .	1	.	.
Cleave's Penny Gazette .	2	.	.	Gazette des Tribunaux .	1	.	.
Crown	1	.	.	Messenger	1	.	.
Era	1	28	.	National	1	.	.
Examiner	5	2	1	Parterre	1	.	.
Figaro	22	.	1	Panorama de Londres .	1	.	.
Globe	16	20	3	Sicile	1	.	.
Globe and Traveller . .	1	1	.	<i>Publications.</i>			
John Bull	4	4	.	Bentley's Miscellany . .	1	.	.
London Journal	1	.	.	Boz's Miscellany	1	.	.
Morning Chronicle . . .	35	55	20	Blackwood's Magazine .	6	.	.
Morning Post	4	1	1	British Almanac, &c. .	1	.	.
Morning Herald	20	33	11	Chambers' Edinburgh }	25	1	2
Morning Advertiser . .	14	248	2	Journal			
Magnet	1	.	.	Casket	4	.	.
News	3	2	2	Calendar of Horrors . .	1	.	.
Observer	2	8	.	Doctor	1	.	.
Patriot	1	.	.	Engineers' and Archi- }	1	.	.
Paul Pry	5	2	.	itects' Journal }			
Penny Satirist	5	.	.	Frazer's Magazine . . .	4	.	.
Satirist	15	9	5	Franklin's Miscellany .	1	.	.
Standard	5	4	4	Guide to Knowledge . .	2	.	.
Star	2	.	.	Lancet	2	.	.
Spectator	3	.	1	Literary Gazette	3	.	.
Sun	43	33	6	Mechanic's Magazine . .	2	.	.
Sunday Herald	1	1	.	Metropolitan Magazine .	2	.	.
Sunday Times	12	37	5	Mirror	21	.	1
Times	40	28	13	Musical World	1	.	.
Town	14	3	.	Monthly Magazine . . .	3	.	.
Weekly Dispatch	37	189	12	New Monthly Magazine .	5	.	.
Weekly Chronicle	3	2	.	Nicholas Nickleby . . .	3	.	.
Weekly Post	1	.	.	Pickwick	10	.	.
<i>Country Papers.</i>				Penny Magazine	10	.	.
Brighton Patriot	1	.	.	Penny Story-teller . . .	6	.	.
Bristol Mirror	1	.	.	Saturday Magazine . . .	16	.	.
Cambrian	1	.	.	Tales of the Wars . . .	5	.	.
Dublin Register	1	.	.	Tait's Magazine	4	.	.
Dublin Freeman's Journal	1	.	.	United Service Journal .	3	.	.
Dublin Evening Mail . .	1	.	.	Wars of Europe	2	.	.
Edinburgh Patriot . . .	1	.	.	Wilson's Tales of the }	1	.	.
Glasgow Herald	1	.	.	Borderers }			
Glasgow Liberator	1	.	.	Weekly Magazine	9	1	1

* This part of the list was obtained with great difficulty from the publicans; nor would it probably have been obtained so correctly, but through the perseverance of a very zealous agent.

VII.—*Criminal Statistics.*

Upon this head very full information will be found in the two Tables, at the end of this article, obligingly furnished by the Commissioners of Police, and in the comparison drawn from them. It is a fortunate circumstance that the limits of the C. division of police are nearly identical with those of the three parishes under notice. A small portion in the south-east is included in the police district which belongs to other parishes; but on the other hand, a larger section of the south-western extremity is excluded, leaving, however, by far the greatest part of the two districts identical, and thus affording the means of an accurate comparison with the rest of the metropolis.

In comparing these two Tables, the former relating to the whole of the metropolitan police district, and the latter to the division of St. James's, with the view of discovering the nature and prevalence of offences within the latter portion, the following results are deduced.

It is to be regretted that neither the number of the population in this division, nor the proportion which it bears to that of the whole district, can be stated; other means of comparison must therefore be adopted.

The proportion which the number of persons taken into custody in this division bears to the total number, is 11·7; but if the five following minor classes of offences be excluded from the comparison, viz., Drunkenness, Disorderly Characters, Prostitutes, Suspicious Characters and Vagrants, the proportion becomes reduced to 6·6. The rate of these classes alone is 14·5. These facts shew that there is a great preponderance of these offences in this division, which is confirmed by the observation and experience of the officers of police.

Upon a comparison of the sexes, it appears that in this division the number of females apprehended is proportionally greater than in the remainder of the district, the proportion being 38 in 100 individuals, while in the remainder of the district it is only 33 in 100, a difference of 5 per cent. This excess, it must be observed, is not confined to the disorderly and suspicious classes of offence, but is equally great among those of assaults and simple larceny, the difference being 4 per cent. in the former, and 7 per cent. in the latter instance. One other point is worthy of notice, although it may probably arise from a greater strictness of practice in entering the charges at the station-houses. Whilst the proportion of female to male Drunkards, Suspicious Characters, and Vagrants, is greater in this division than throughout the whole district, yet the proportion of Disorderly Characters is considerably less, being only 31· per cent., while in the remainder of the district it is 36·5.

The next subject for consideration is the nature of the offences. As the proportion which the population of this division bears to that of the whole district cannot be shewn, the most obvious way of discovering the kinds of offences most prevalent in this division cannot be employed; but they may be exhibited in another way, by calculating the proportion which the number of persons apprehended for each class of offence in the division bears to the number in the same class throughout the whole district, and examining how much the result in each case exceeds or

falls short of the proportion between the total number of offences of all classes. The latter was stated to be 11·7 per cent., including the five most trivial and most numerous classes of offences, viz., Vagrants, which amount to 20·5 per cent. ; Suspicious Characters, amounting to 20·2 per cent. ; Drunkenness to 17·7 per cent. ; Prostitutes to 13·2 per cent. ; and Disorderly Characters, which, as before observed, are less numerous in this division, to 9·2 per cent.

If, however, these five classes be excluded, the proportion is 6·6 per cent., and with these figures the comparison should rather be made. In some of the classes the number of cases is so small as not to admit of a fair contrast; and in others no offences whatever occurred within the division.

In general the Offences against the Person are proportionably few; murder and manslaughter are below the average, and of some heinous crimes there are no instances whatever, but the number of attempts to commit an unnatural crime is very large, amounting to 5 in number, or 38· per cent. of the whole number committed in the district. Assaults are somewhat more numerous than in the rest of the district, particularly attempts to rescue from custody, and to obstruct police constables on duty.

The number of Offences against Property committed with Violence is very small, comprising only 4 out of 50 cases of burglary, while there are no cases of breaking or entering into dwelling-houses or buildings, and none of robbery. This fact deserves notice; and as the district is very wealthy, the absence of offences of this kind can only be attributed to the excellent watch maintained by the police.

The next division of the table contains Offences against Property committed without Violence. It was to be expected that the cases of cattle-stealing would be few, unless perhaps that of horses be excepted. There were, however, no cases of this latter class in 1837. Of larcenies in a dwelling-house to the value of 5*l.* there was a great excess, presenting 14 out of the 63 cases which occurred in the whole district, but of other larcenies in a dwelling-house, there was a very remarkable deficiency, the number being only 2 out of 549 cases. The proportion of other kinds of larceny was not much in excess; that of simple larcenies being rather less than the general ratio. The remaining offences in this division of the table do not call for any remark, with the exception of cases of pawning illegally, and unlawful possession of goods, the proportion of which is very small.

Of the two cases of Arson in the whole district, one occurred in this division. The number of cases of wilful damage is little more than half the average ratio. Cases of forgery amounted to 22· per cent of the whole number committed within the police district, and those of coining to 10·8 per cent. In the remaining division of miscellaneous offences only one class besides those before-mentioned requires notice, viz., Nuisances under Metropolitan Street Act, Sewers, &c., which amount to 16·3 per cent.

One remarkable though not wholly unexpected feature presented by this division, is the proportionably greater number of educated persons taken into custody. The following abstract will best shew this fact.

Per Centage Proportion of Individuals possessing the several following Degrees of Instruction, to the total number taken into Custody.

	In the Division.		In the remainder of the District.	
Could neither read nor write	31·5	Per Cent.	46·	Per Cent.
Could read only, or read and write imperfectly	48·	,,	43·1	,,
Could read and write well	18·	,,	9·4	,,
Had received a superior education	2·5	,,	1·5	,,
	<hr/> 100·		<hr/> 100·	

In the two best instructed classes the proportion is nearly double in this division, and the number totally uninstructed is very much smaller.

This difference, however, occurs almost wholly among the cases of common assaults, wilful damage, disorderly characters, and drunkenness, to which offences educated persons are most addicted, who, from their superior circumstances in life, are generally removed from the temptations to commit more serious offences. This will be seen in the following statement referring to the division of St. James's.

	Cases of Assault, Wilful Damage, Disorderly Characters, and Drunkenness.		Other Cases.	
Could neither read nor write	27·	Per Cent.	40·5	Per Cent.
Could read only, or read and write imperfectly	47·5	,,	49·1	,,
Could read and write well	22·	,,	10·	,,
Had received a superior education	3·5	,,	·4	,,
	<hr/> 100·		<hr/> 100·	

Here it will be seen that the excess in this class is very great among the educated persons, who amount to 25·6 per cent., while in the commission of other kinds of offences they amount only to 10·4 per cent.

The same is not the case in the remainder of the district. There the proportion of persons taken into custody for the offences above specified, was as follows:—

Could neither read nor write	40·8	Per Cent.
Could read only, or read and write imperfectly	45·	,,
Could read and write well	11·8	,,
Had received a superior education	2·4	,,
	<hr/> 100·	

These proportions differ little from those of the total number of persons apprehended for all kinds of offences in the same portion of the district.

The superior instruction of the offenders in this division will be shewn in a very strong light in the following table, which exhibits the per centage proportion of the total number of offenders, and of the classes above specified within the division, to the same classes in the

whole district, and a similar comparison of the educated and uneducated offenders in the same classes. If the degree of instruction were the same throughout the district, the proportions of the latter would be in each case similar or approximate to the former, but the contrast is very striking.

Per Centage Proportion of Offenders in the St. James's Division to those in the whole of the Police District.

	All kinds of Offences.	Common Assaults.	Wilful Damage.	Disorderly Characters.	Drunken- ness.	Other Offences.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Can neither read nor write .	8·4	5·	1·7	5·9	12·7	8·9
Can read only, or read and write imperfectly . . . }	12·9	8·	2·9	10·6	18·1	9·9
Can read and write well .	20·2	12·5	7·2	15·9	30·	7·6
Have received a superior education }	17·6	17·4	22·6	8·5	24·	1·2
Proportion of Total Num- ber of Offenders . . }	11·7	7·8	3·7	9·2	17·7	9·

If this division resembled the rest of the district, the figures in each of the columns ought to be about the same as those in the bottom line; but it will be seen how greatly the educated classes preponderate in the first five columns, while in the last they actually are less numerous, confirming what has been stated with respect to the excess of educated persons being confined to the offences distinguished in the preceding table.

It is perhaps worthy of remark, that only one female is to be found among the persons who had received a superior degree of instruction, and that was a case of vagrancy, and very probably one of misfortune.

To recapitulate, therefore, it appears that offences arising from drunken and disorderly conduct are very frequent in this division; but that they are committed chiefly by persons in a rank of life above the labouring classes—that crimes of violence, housebreaking, and violent robbery are rare—that larcenies in dwelling-houses are also rare; but when they do occur, the amount of property taken is above the average, confirming the fact, before noticed, of the opulence of the division;—that the proportion of vice or crime among females is greater than in the rest of the district: and, lastly, that the proportion of instructed persons taken into custody is considerably greater in this division, but that it is confined to cases of disorderly or drunken conduct.

Table shewing the Number of Persons taken into Custody throughout the whole of the Metropolitan Police District, in the Year 1837; together with the Degree of Instruction possessed by the same.

OFFENCES.	Total in the Year 1837.			Neither Read nor Write.		Read only, or Read and Write Imperfectly.	Read and Write Well.		Superior In- struction.	
No. 1. Offences against the Person.	M & F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
Murder	25	20	5	5	3	11	1	4	1	..
— by Shooting at, Stabbing, Administer- ing Poison, &c.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
— by Cutting & Wounding, with intent, &c. — by Concealing Birth of their Infants	53	47	6	15	3	30	2	1	..	..
Manlaughter	5	..	5	..	3	..	2	..	..	..
Sodomy	22	22	..	4	..	15	..	8	..	..
— Assaults, with intent to commit, &c. — Extorting Money under threats, &c.	13	13	..	3	..	4	..	..	2	..
Rape	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
— Assaults, with intent to commit, &c.	6	6	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..
Bestiality	18	18	..	4	..	9	..	5	..	..
Bribery	4	4	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..
Child Dropping	12	8	4	..	3	7	1	1	..	..
— Stealing	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assaults, Common	5026	4299	727	1310	435	2188	235	675	57	126
Attempting to Rescue from Custody	264	226	38	58	28	108	8	43	2	17
Obstructing Police Constables on Duty	187	154	33	56	17	67	10	29	6	2
No. 2. Offences against Property committed with Violence.										
Burglary	50	48	2	18	1	24	1	6	..	..
Breaking into a Dwelling-house and Stealing — into a Dwelling-house, with intent, &c. — within the Curtilage of a Dwelling- house and Stealing	48	42	6	13	4	21	2	7	..	1
— Shops, Warehouses, Counting-houses, &c. Robbery	31	29	2	9	2	19	..	1	..	..
	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	8	8	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..
	42	27	15	4	10	17	2	6	3	..
No. 3. Offences against Property committed without Violence.										
Cattle Stealing	8	8	..	1	..	5	..	2	..	..
Horse Stealing	45	45	..	9	..	30	..	5	..	1
Sheep Stealing	3	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Larceny in a Dwelling-house to Value of £5 — in a Dwelling-house	63	44	19	8	12	30	7	4	..	2
— from the Person	549	253	296	58	91	132	191	55	14	8
— by Servants	1045	495	550	166	289	264	239	60	21	5
— from Letters containing Bank Notes, &c. Simple	200	136	64	28	37	78	26	26	1	4
	5	4	1	..	..	..	2	1	2	..
Misdemeanors, with intent to Steal	8094	5277	2817	2274	1856	2523	878	448	80	32
Embezzlement	651	531	120	231	54	263	61	36	3	1
Receiving Stolen Goods	365	327	38	69	19	173	16	77	3	8
Frauds	150	89	61	31	33	33	27	25	1	..
Conspiracy, with intent to Defraud	405	314	91	71	41	162	42	65	8	..
Dog Stealing	4	4	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..
Pawning illegally	82	71	11	21	8	40	3	8	..	2
Unlawful Possession of Goods	439	192	247	72	104	91	139	28	4	1
	3190	2504	686	1120	458	1168	220	206	8	10
No. 4. Malicious Offences against Property.										
Arson	2	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Wilful Damage	1723	1271	454	398	295	569	147	251	12	53
No. 5. Forgery, and Offences against the Currency.										
Forging, and uttering Forged Instruments	15	11	4	..	..	5	1	1	3	5
Coining	7	..	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Coin (Counterfeit), putting off, uttering, &c.	862	577	285	179	194	344	83	51	8	3
No. 6. Other Offences, not included in the above Classes.										
Abconding from their Bail	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Apprentices, Runaway	118	114	4	19	..	65	2	30	1	..
Attempting to commit Suicide	61	18	33	4	12	18	5	2	1	1
Cruelty to Animals	85	84	1	44	..	32	1	8	..	..
Deserting their Families	119	75	44	28	25	37	18	9	1	1
Deserters	69	69	..	15	..	45	8	..	1	..
Disorderly Characters	7659	4900	2759	1522	1668	2402	1012	819	72	157
— Prostitutes	3103	..	3103	..	1773	1237	..	89	..	4
Drunkenness	21426	14021	7405	4093	4218	6960	2838	2449	340	519
Furious Driving	86	95	1	14	..	45	..	27	..	9
Gambling	866	365	1	167	..	169	1	27	..	2
Hawking without Licence	21	20	1	9	..	10	1	1	..	..
Illicit Distillation	28	24	4	9	1	10	3	..	..	..
Indecently exposing the Person	296	208	88	39	40	99	44	60	4	10
Nuisances	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
— under Metropolitan Street Act, Sewers, &c.	391	309	82	113	55	162	25	32	2	2
Reputed Thieves	921	784	137	445	75	326	62	12	..	1
Suspicious Characters	1634	145	183	1107	124	178	32	161	6	5
Vagrants	4287	2805	1482	1588	1087	1063	408	133	33	21
Total	64416	48494	21922	15463	13033	20071	8071	5628	787	1032

Table shewing the Number of Persons taken into Custody within the C, or St. James's Division, of the Metropolitan Police, in the Year 1837; together with the Degree of Instruction possessed by the same.

OFFENCES.	Total in the Year 1837.			Neither Read nor Write.		Read only, or Read and Write Imperfectly.		Read and Write Well.		Superior Instruction.		Percentage Proportion of the Metropolitan Police District.
	M. & F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. 1. Offences against the Person.												
Murder	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4*
— by Cutting and Wounding, with intent, &c.	5	4	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	9*4
Manslaughter	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4*5
Assaults, with intent to commit Sodomy, &c.	5	5	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	38*4
Assaults, with intent to commit Rape, &c.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5*5
Child Dropping	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	50*
Assaults, Common	396	311	85	52	35	153	42	84	8	22	..	7*8
Attempting to Rescue from Custody	27	24	3	3	2	11	1	7	..	3	..	10*2
Obstructing Police Constables on Duty	20	18	2	4	..	8	2	6	..	..	..	10*7
No. 2. Offences against Property committed with Violence.												
Burglary	4	3	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	8*
No. 3. Offences against Property committed without Violence.												
Cattle Stealing	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	12*5
Larceny in a Dwelling-house to the Value of £5	14	11	3	1	3	10	..	..	..	..	..	22*2
— in a Dwelling-house	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3*
— from the Person	80	37	43	10	12	22	25	5	6	..	..	7*6
— by Servants	17	9	8	1	4	6	4	2	..	..	..	8*5
— Simple	497	304	193	78	75	170	98	56	20	..	..	6*1
Embezzlement	31	26	5	3	1	15	3	8	1	..	..	8*5
Receiving Stolen Goods	9	5	4	1	3	3	1	1	..	..	..	6*
Frauds	27	20	7	2	..	9	6	8	1	1	..	6*6
Dog Stealing	7	7	..	2	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	8*5
Pawning illegally	7	4	3	1	..	3	2	..	1	..	..	1*6
Unlawful Possession of Goods	28	20	8	6	6	11	2	3	..	..	..	*9
No. 4. Malicious Offences against Property.												
Arson	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	50*
Wilful Damage	64	52	12	6	6	19	2	15	4	12	..	3*7
No. 5. Forgery, and Offences against the Currency.												
Forging and uttering } Forged Instruments } Coin (Counterfeit), putting off, uttering, &c.	4	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	26*6
	93	58	35	13	22	39	12	6	1	..	..	10*8
No. 6. Other Offences not included in the above Classes.												
Apprentices, Runaway	11	9	2	2	..	5	1	2	1	..	..	9*3
Cruelty to Animals	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2*2
Deserting their Families	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1*7
Deserters	4	4	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	5*8
Disorderly Characters	708	488	220	80	108	269	95	125	17	14	..	9*2
— Prostitutes	411	..	411	..	186	..	205	..	20	..	..	13*2
Drunkennes	3791	2367	1424	455	600	1082	693	703	131	127	..	17*7
Furious Driving	7	7	..	..	..	5	2	..	..	..	..	7*3
Gambling	26	26	..	3	..	19	..	3	..	1	..	7*1
Illicit Distillation	3	2	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	10*7
Indecently exposing the Person	6	4	2	1	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	3*
Nuisances under Metropolitan Street Act, Sewers, &c.	64	46	18	21	18	21	..	4	..	..	..	16*3
Suspicious Characters	331	290	41	83	23	170	15	37	3	..	..	20*2
Vagrants	882	530	352	232	229	244	111	50	11	4	1	20*5
Total	7,591	4,704	2,887	1,062	1,335	2,321	1,326	1,135	225	186	1	11*7

N. B. A Table of the ages cannot be given, in consequence of no Table having been kept of the ages of persons taken before Magistrates and discharged. The ages of those summarily convicted and committed for trial only are kept.